United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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5 November 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Two meetings with Angolan parties set up by UNAVEM II to be held in city of Caxito today and tomorrow; United Nations spokesman confirms that 20 Brazilian and 50 Russian nationals have been seized by UNITA.

+ Co-Chairmen for International Conference on Former Yugoslavia reject possibility of lifting arms embargo for Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying such move would only widen and deepen war, with risk of it spreading to other States in the region.

+ Commercial activities by ships "in which a majority or controlling interest is held by a person or undertaking in or operation from" the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), even though sailing under flag of some other country, are in violation of mandatory sanctions against that country, says Chairman of Sanctions Committee.

+ Commissioner General of UNWRA foresees reduced level of operations for Agency; appeals for increased support.

+ Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament holds its fourth plenary session in New York from 28 to 30 October 1992.

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Describing the situation in Angola as continously "tense", officials in the United Nations Verifications Mission in that country (UNAVEM II) today informed the United Nations that they had succeeded in setting up two meetings with the parties in the city of Caxito, east of Luanda.

According to a United Nations official, one meeting was scheduled this afternoon with a General of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and with representatives of the Angolan Government. A second, larger meeting was scheduled at a neutral site tomorrow afternoon. Two hours before the meeting, UNAVEM would conduct an inspection of the premises to ensure the safety of its staff.

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For information media—not an official record

The official confirmed that 20 Brazilians and 50 Russians working as specialists on the Papanda Dam, had been seized by forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). He said UNAVEM chief and Special Representative Margaret Anstee had spoken with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who promised to do anything to get the people released. The official said the Brazilian Government had a airplane standing by close to Angola, ready to evacuate the people if they were released.

Marrack Goulding, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, will arrive in Luanda tomorrow to work with the Special Representative in the efforts to restore the peace process in Angola. Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan is already in Luanda taking part in the peace efforts.

In other news, the Bulgarian Ambassador to the United Nations, Slavi Pashovski, has informed the President of the Security Council that the Bulgarian Chargé d'affaires in the Angolan capital of Luanda has been kidnapped.

In a letter, dated 2 November, Mr. Pashovski said the kidnapping of the Bulgarian official had been confirmed by the Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in Sofia. The Ambassador of Zimbabwe and a diplomatic representative of another country were also taken hostages. The letter called on the Security Council to urgently undertake all appropriate measures to secure the safety of the diplomatic missions in Luanda and to assist in the evacuation of their personnel.
Document S/24755

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The Co-Chairmen for the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, during talks with Turkish leaders in Ankara this week, rejected the possibility of lifting the arms embargo for Bosnia and Herzegovina, their Spokesman told reporters in Geneva today. The Co-Chairmen, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, said that such a move would only widen and deepen the war, with the risk of it spreading to other States in the region.

In a separate development, the World Food Programme (WFP) announced in Rome today that it would supply 201,000 metric tons of emergency food aid to feed more than three million people over the next 150 days in the former Yugoslavia. End-point distribution to people in need would be handled by UNHCR, as the United Nations' lead agency for relief operations in the region.

According to the WFP announcement, some 85,366 of the 286,000 metric tons needed have already been promised, through multilateral pledges and bilaterally by the European Economic Community. The total cost of the operation, scheduled to last for five months, will be $145 million.

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Commercial activities by ships in which a majority or controlling interest is held by a person or undertaking in or operating from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), even though sailing under the flag of some other country, are considered as contrary to the Security Council's mandatory sanctions against that country. That was stated today by the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee established under Council resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, José Ayala Lasso, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Ecuador.

In a statement to the press issued today in reply to Governments' questions about the Security Council Sanctions Committee's position on the application of sanctions to ships, Mr. Lasso said the decisive question was "who exercises effective control over the vessel, not simply what flag the vessel is flying". Any continued operation and any payments related to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was therefore also in violation of the sanctions imposed under resolution 757 (1992), the Ecuadoran Ambassador said.

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The Commissioner-General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Turkmen, said this morning that it would be almost impossible for the Agency to maintain its present level of operations, let alone cope with additional demands generated by a deteriorating economic situation and an uncertain political environment.

At the end of the Special Political Committee's debate on the work of the Agency, Mr. Turkmen said the Agency would need the widest support possible, particularly from Governments in the region which had not contributed to UNRWA in the past or had contributed on a very small scale.

In a related development, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has called on the Government of Israel to end extrajudicial killings, cease land confiscation and settlement, release political prisoners, restore civilian liberties and repeal military orders controlling Palestinian life.

In adopting its report to the General Assembly, the Committee also called on the United Nations, the Security Council and the Secretary-General to play an active role in the peace process, noting that the Organization had a permanent responsibility with respect to Palestine.

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The United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament held its fourth plenary session in New York from 28 to 30 October 1992. Its meetings were chaired by the Executive Chairman, Rolf Ekeus, and the Deputy Executive Chairman, Michael Newlin of the United States.

In a press release issued today at Headquarters, the Special Commission's spokesman, Tim Trevan, said that after being apprised of the activities undertaken under relevant Security Council resolutions since the last plenary

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session, the Commission concentrated its discussions on the following issues: the destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons; ways of implementing the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification to ensure that Iraq does not reacquire proscribed weapons; and plans for the future control of imports into Iraq, in keeping with Security Council resolution 715 (1991).

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6 November 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General reaffirms commitment for restructuring of Organization; pledges to take all possible measures to strengthen international civil service.

+ Meeting between representatives of Angolan Government and UNITA, scheduled for today in Caxito, delayed; 300 expatriates are evacuated from Luanda, says United Nations official.

+ Committee of Experts on war crimes in former Yugoslavia decides to begin factual analysis of existing reports as well as legal analysis of applicable law, as it concludes first meeting at Headquarters.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appeals for $17.8 million for food and shelter to avert winter emergency in Afghanistan.

+ Human Rights Committee expresses "grave concern and anger" over massive violations occurring in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Fighting in Liberia is preventing United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from assisting more than 100,000 Sierra Leonean refugees stranded in isolated north of that country.

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United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today pledged to take all possible measures to strengthen the international civil service, saying he would like that to be his "legacy to the Organization". He promised to preserve the independence and integrity of the international civil service and to promote the highest standards of efficiency and competence.

The Secretary-General made the pledge in a statement to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) this morning, in which he also appealed on behalf of the United Nations to all Member States to meet their financial obligations and pay their contributions in full and on time.

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In a review of his recent proposals for a reorganization of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General said political appointments at the Under-Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General level should "by definition be of a limited duration". As a rule, he said, they should not extend beyond the term of office of the Secretary-General or the head of Programme who made the initial appointment. In addition, he intended to continue decreasing the number of Assistant Secretary-General posts throughout the United Nations. In the initial stage of the restructuring, the number of senior level posts had been reduced, and the decision-making procedures were thus made simpler and more direct.

Turning to the issue of career development, the Secretary-General said a career international civil service should be based on competitive recruitment at the junior professional levels and a transparent career development process in which the majority of posts were filled from within. Rigour in granting and reviewing permanent appointments was an integral part of this concept, he said. A genuinely independent service also required an end to the practice of national subsidies paid to some staff members. That practice was unethical, and raised questions of conflict of interest which could not be ignored.

On the issue of the unprecedented number of peace-keeping operations mounted by the United Nations lately, the Secretary-General noted that 600 professional staff and more than 1000 General Service staff were currently assigned to such missions. That situation could not be sustained over a long-term period without fundamental changes in the present outmoded system of personnel management, he said. Training was crucial to enhance the quality of management in the Secretariat and to provide staff with operational skills needed for field service. The United Nations was currently devoting only 0.27 per cent of its staff costs to training. The Secretary-General proposed a significantly increased allocation of resources to that activity in the next budget.

On the issue of women, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said it was evident that efforts to improve the status of women in the Secretariat in recent years had not reached anticipated levels. While this situation was not only a matter of equity, the Secretary-General said the world could no longer afford to deprive its public life of the talents of half of all humanity.

In closing, the Secretary-General said his management policy had been, and would continue to be, to delegate. He expected managers to manage and all staff to work creatively, constructively and with a commitment to disciplined achievement. He expressed the hope for a shared sense of participation and responsibility "all up and down the line".

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The meeting scheduled to take place today in Caxito between representatives of the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had been delayed, but would be held shortly, according to a United Nations official today. The delay was due to the fact that negotiating teams had not yet been established.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, was continuing efforts to get the two leaders to meet "as soon as practicable", the official said. Three hundred expatriates had been evacuated from Luanda this morning on two South African planes, but there was nothing new with regard to the Russians and Brazilians specialists being held in Capanda.

In a related development, the Bulgarian Ambassador to the United Nations, Slavi Pashovski, has informed the President of the Security Council that a Bulgarian national has accidentially been killed during the recent fighting in Angola.

In a letter, dated 4 November, Mr. Pashovski further said that it had been established that the Bulgarian Chargé d'affaires in Luanda had not been kidnapped, as reported earlier in a letter to the Council President on 2 November. Mr. Pashovski said the premises of the Bulgarian Embassy had suffered serious damages and most of the property, including vehicles, furniture, funds and documentation, had been stolen.

In a previous letter dated 1 November, the Bulgarian Government reported that it was taking urgent measures aimed at rescuing the staff of the Bulgarian Embassy, namely trying to locate the nearest Bulgarian vessel and make arrangements for the evacuation of its nationals from Luanda.

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The Committee of Experts, set up by the Security Council to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, has decided to begin a factual analysis of existing reports as well as a legal analysis of applicable law. The Commission made that decision during its first two-day meeting at Headquarters on 4 and 5 November at which it discussed organizational and procedural concerns and began dealing with methodological and substantive issues.

The Commission will meet shortly in Geneva to continue its discussion of practical problems inherent to the identification and eventual investigation of alleged incidents.

In establishing the Commission early October, the Council appealed to States and relevant organizations to make information available to the Commission by today, 6 November, regarding the violation of humanitarian law. The members of the Commission, who were appointed by the Secretary-General on 26 October, are Frits Kalshoven, Chairman; Cherif Bassiouni; William Fenrick; Judge Keba Mbaye; and Torkel Opsahl.

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Adequate food and shelters are urgently needed to avert a winter emergency in Afghanistan, struggling to absorb more than 1 million returnees who are going home this year under a repatriation programme assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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According to a press release issued by UNHCR today, some $17.8 million were urgently required to meet winter emergency needs over the next two months, as stated by Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, last week at a donors conference in New York. The appeal was made in the face of lacking funds for Afghanistan, with only one third of the total $180 million required by all United Nations agencies for voluntary repatriation and immediate assistance in Afghanistan having been pledged.

The press release said that while the UNHCR was responsible for providing shelter inside Afghanistan, the World Food Program (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were responsible for food and health care. Eighty per cent of Afghans returning from Pakistan to northern Afghanistan say there is a shortage of food for the winter and all five large food silos in the country are already empty.

Under UNHCR's repatriation program, more than 1 million Afghans have returned from Pakistan in 1992, another 200,000 from Iran and some 10,000 to 15,000 continue to repatriate each week. In addition, 135,000 internally displaced Afghans are also in need of urgent assistance.

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Meeting in Geneva on Wednesday, 4 November, members of the Human Rights Committee expressed "grave concern and anger" over the massive violations now occurring in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The "ethnic cleansing" policy, the Committee was told, had already resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people and hundreds of thousands who had to flee for their lives.

Concern was expressed among the members that the next major target would be Kosovo, where the majority Albanian population had been deprived of their basic human rights. Furthermore, the Committee's experts repeatedly stressed the responsibility of the authorities and agents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for much of the violence taking place on the other side of the borders. They also noted that, despite the Federal Government's expressed intention, thus far not a single person guilty of human rights violations had been tried.

The Deputy Federal Minister for Human Rights and Ethnic Minorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Konstantin Obradovic, declared that his country was aware of its human rights shortcomings. The Federal Government had expressed the political will to re-establish a State of law but did not have sufficient power to bring the violators of human rights to justice.

Speakers noted that the special report by Croatia reflected that country's commitment to the promotion of human rights. Nevertheless, they also stressed that the State was responsible for actions on its territory and of its representatives abroad and that serious steps had to be taken to limit the violence that had plagued the region.

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The latest fighting in the nearly three-year-old civil war in Liberia, which began mid-October, is preventing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from assisting more than 100,000 Sierra Leonean refugees, the vast majority of whom are stranded in the isolated north of the country, the UNHCR said today.

Thousands more are trapped in the war-torn capital, Monrovia, but the Agency has managed to repatriate 1800 so far. At least ten more trips would be necessary to evacuate those remaining in Monrovia who wish to go home, the Agency said.

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9 November 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Russian President Boris Yeltsin confirms suspension of troop withdrawal from Baltic States until agreements have been signed on status and conditions of these troops during withdrawal period; Baltic Heads of State protest Russian decision.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Yugoslavia to visit New York this week at request of Secretary-General, to attend Security Council consultations on former Yugoslavia.

+ After eight days of consultations in San Salvador with President Alfredo Cristiani and the FMLN, Assistant-Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto reports agreement on upcoming stages of peace process in El Salvador.

+ Special Representative for Middle East, Edouard Brunner, to represent Secretary-General at Ottawa meeting of Working Group on Refugees.

+ Secretary-General cites reports of pattern of "gross and widespread human rights abuses" in Haiti, in report to General Assembly on situation in that country.

+ Croatian Prime Minister appeals for international assistance in providing shelter for 750,000 displaced people; Vice-President calls for action to combat "ethnic cleansing" and gather information on violations of humanitarian law.

+ Special Representative for Angola, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping and Chief Military Observer met on Saturday with Angolan President to discuss cease-fire; to attempt today to arrange meeting with leader of Union for Total Liberation of Angola.

+ Percentage of professional posts subject to geographical distribution occupied by women in Secretariat rose to 30.6 per cent this year from 29.2 per cent in 1991; percentage of women in policy-level positions up from 8 to 11 per cent.

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For information media—not an official record

+ Establishment of integrated United Nations Offices in six former States of Soviet Union stresses inter-relationship between peace and security, democracy and human rights, Secretary-General tells Tokyo Conference on Assistance to New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

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While reaffirming Russia's intention to withdraw its troops from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, President Boris Yeltsin has confirmed in a letter to the Secretary-General that the withdrawal has been suspended until the signing of a series of agreements dealing with the status and conditions of these troops during the withdrawal period. The letter also addressed the situation of the Russian-speaking populations in the three Baltic States and asked the Secretary-General to encourage those States to "implement in good faith and fully, their undertakings under bilateral and international agreements in the area of human rights and freedoms". President Yeltsin proposed that the question of "mass violations of human rights and freedoms in these States" be included in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

The letter was handed over to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali by the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Yuliy Vorontsov, at a meeting on Friday, 6 November.

Meanwhile, the three Baltic States have protested the suspension of withdrawal of Russian troops from their territory, saying it "complicated the political situation in the Baltic States and might pose a serious threat to peace and stability in northern Europe". The protest was contained in a joint letter to the Secretary-General, also dated 6 November.

Asking the Secretary-General to direct special attention to the situation in the region, the three Heads of State of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania warned that, pending the Russian position in the upcoming discussion in the General Assembly on the question, the Council of Baltic States "might appeal" to the Security Council "if it becomes necessary".

The letter was signed by Vytautas Landbergis, President of the Supreme Council of Lithuania; Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia; and Lennart Meri, President of Estonia.
Document S/24774

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, will be coming to New York from Geneva "about midweek", according to Conference Spokesman Fred Eckhard. Their visit is at the request of the Secretary-General to be present at Security Council consultations on the former Yugoslavia, at a date to be finalized.

Briefing the press on the activities of the Co-Chairmen, the Spokesman said that Lord Owen was in Brussels today attending a meeting of European

Community Foreign Ministers. Mr. Vance met today with the Surgeon-General of Yugoslav Army, to discuss the disappearance of people from the hospital in Vukovar since the town fell to the Yugoslav People's Army during the war between Serbia and Croatia. Over the weekend the Co-Chairmen also met with President Dobrica Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and with President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia.

In related news, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will convene formally on the matter tomorrow afternoon.

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Following eight days of consultations in San Salvador, conducted separately with President Alfredo Cristiani and with the General Command of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), Assistant-Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto last night reported to the Secretary-General that agreement had been reached regarding the upcoming stages of the peace process in El Salvador.

The Secretary General and Mr. de Soto commended President Cristiani and the FMLN for the constructive spirit and genuine cooperation which both sides had shown in overcoming the difficulties which prompted the mission by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Mr.de Soto. It augured well for the smooth unfolding of the coming delicate phases of the process, which would culminate with the formal end of the armed conflict on 15 December.

Mr. de Soto was scheduled to return to New York today to convey details of the arrangements to the Secretary-General, who is expected to report soon on the issue to the Security Council. The Secretary-General's Special Representative, Iqbal Riza, will continue to coordinate with the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN the arrangements for the verification tasks of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

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A United Nations official announced today that the Secretary-General would be represented by its Special Representative for the Middle East, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, at the Working Group on Refugees, in the framework of the multilateral Middle East peace negotiations. The meetings of the Working Group on Refugees are scheduled to take place in Ottawa on 11 and 12 November.

Ambassador Brunner will be assisted by representatives of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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In his recent report to the General Assembly on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

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has cited reports of a pattern of "gross and widespread human rights abuses" one year after the coup d'Etat in Haiti overthrew the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

According to the report, dated 3 November, the violations included extra-judicial executions, severe ill-treatement amounting to torture and arbitrary and illegal arrest, intense harassment and intimidations of opinion-makers such as journalists, priests, lawyers and grass-root leaders, reprisals against popular expressions of support for the overthrown President, and restrictions on the right of freedom of association. In addition, the report said, the outside interference in Haiti's judicial system had reportedly intensified in the past year.

With regard to the economic situation in Haiti, the Secretary-General pointed out that the country's economy was in a state of free fall with tens of thousands of jobs having been cut in the industrial and services sector. The reduction in family purchasing power had caused the food situation, already precarious, to deteriorate further since October 1991, and malnutrition affected the most vulnerable groups of society, particularly young children. The deteriorating situation explained why Haitians sought, at the risk of their lives, to flee their country, the Secretary-General noted. Since last May, Haitian boat people had been returned to their country without any preliminary questioning, a decision, he wrote, which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had deplored and which was now before the United States Supreme Court.

Faced with the seriousness of the situation, the United Nations agencies in Haiti had established an inter-agency committee under the direction of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which had drawn up a draft integrated plan of humanitarian action. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs was committed to collaborating closely with the efforts by the Organization of American States (OAS) in order to face up to the situation in Haiti, the report said. Document A/47/599

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Pointing out that the four and a half million inhabitants of Croatia were having to shelter 750,000 displaced people, the Croatian Prime Minister has called for financial support from the international community, and for the building of refugee camps in safe areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 6 November, Prime Minister Hrvojé Sarinic says that Croatia's deteriorating social and economic situation is being further stressed by the refugee crisis. He also pointed out that the majority of refugees were being accomodated by private families who until now have received no monetary assistance.

The Croatian Vice-President, Vladimir Seks, in a letter dated 5 November, called on the Security Council to implement the Vance Plan in connection with the prevention and combating of "ethnic cleansing". Mr. Seks, stressing Croatia's cooperation with moves to gather information on violations of

humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and to prosecute the perpetrators, urged other States and international organizations to do likewise. He also called the Council's attention to the information collated by civilian and military members of the United Nations Protection Force and suggested that it be conveyed to the War Crimes Commission.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, and Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, accompanied by General Unimna, the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), met for an hour and a half on Saturday with Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, according to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General. They discussed the cease-fire negotiated by the United Nations and ways to restore the peace process in the country.

Ms. Anstee and Under-Secretary-General Goulding had been trying today to make contact with Jonas Savimbi, President of the Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), to arrange a meeting at the earliest convenience. A provisional agreement had been reached for a meeting between the parties on Sunday in Huambo to discuss the cease-fire and steps to restore the peace process, but the meeting was never confirmed.

Ms. Anstee and Mr. Goulding, at midday today, visited a group of UNITA members staying in the Ministry of Defence in Luanda and found them to be in good health. The Spokesman, referring to reports of capture by UNITA of a group of Brazilians and Russians experts, announced this afternoon that all but three Russians had been released.

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In 1992, the percentage of professional posts subject to geographical distribution occupied by women in the Secretariat had reached 30.6 per cent, a small increase from 29.2 per cent in 1991, a United Nations Spokesman told correspondents today. In policy-level positions, he went on to say, the percentage of women rose to a level of 11 per cent, up from 8 per cent a year ago.

Under the terms of a resolution adopted on 16 December 1991, the General Assembly set as its target a level of 35 per cent of all professional posts and 25 per cent of the policy-level positions to be occupied by women by 1995.

The Spokesman's comments followed the recent publication of the Secretary-General's report on the professional status of women in the United Nations Secretariat.

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The establishment of integrated United Nations Offices in six former States of the Soviet Union would stress the inter-relationship between peace and security, democracy and human rights, while providing humanitarian

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assistance and creating the conditions for long-term development, the Secretary-General has said. The statement was contained in a message to the third Coordinating Conference on the Assistance to the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union, held on 29 and 30 October in Tokyo.

Reading out the message at the Conference, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), announced the establishment of integrated offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and an inter-agency coordinating mechanism for exchanging information on United Nations activities in the region.

The Coordinating Conference was attended by representatives of 70 countries and 19 international organizations and confirms the commitment of the international community to a collective approach in tackling the challenge of transition in the new States.

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CORRECTION:

In its Highlights dated 3 November, Central News had erroneously reported the presence of Kofi Annan, Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in Luanda. In fact, Mr. Annan was not in Angola at that time.

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